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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, MARCH 8, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Ex Parte, In re: Investigation
of the appropriate level of
intrastate access service prices

CASE NO. PUC000003

ORDER ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

On December 21, 2000, United Telephone-Southeast, Inc., ("United") and Central Telephone Company of Virginia ("Centel") (collectively, the "Sprint companies") and the Staff of the State Corporation Commission ("Staff") filed a Motion to Approve Settlement of Case ("Motion") in Case No. PUC000003 and set forth a proposed Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") regarding intrastate access services and prices. A response to this Motion was filed by AT&T Communications of Virginia, Inc. On January 5, 2001, the Hearing Examiner assigned to Case No. PUC000003 entered a Certification of Ruling to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") recommending that the Commission establish a procedure for considering comments on the merits of the changes in the access rates set forth in said Agreement and any related issues thereto. Similar procedures were adopted by us for consideration of the proper level of access charges for Verizon Virginia Inc. and Verizon South Inc.

On January 17, 2001, we entered our Order on Proposed Settlement, establishing a period for receipt of comment or request for hearing on the proposed Staff-Sprint settlement.

Subsequently, we granted two extensions of the period of time in which comments were to be filed. The Staff and parties advised that additional negotiations were taking place. On March 2, 2001, Sprint and the Staff filed a joint Motion to Approve Amended Settlement.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the Motion to Approve Amended Settlement, is of the opinion and finds that it is in the public interest to provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit comments or request hearing and for Sprint and the Staff to respond to such comments; and, if requested, to provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear oral argument and accept evidence.

Any interested party may file written comments and/or testimony on the Motion to Approve Amended Settlement by March 22, 2001. Sprint and the Staff may file a reply to any comments filed on or before March 28, 2001.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Written comments or requests for hearing on the Motion to Approve Amended Settlement shall be due by March 22, 2001.

(2) Replies to any comments, testimony, and requests for hearing shall be filed by March 28, 2001.

(3) This matter shall be continued for further orders of the Commission.